

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 LONDON 03875 031626 Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 IO-12 OMB-01 INT-08

SCEM-02 TRSE-00 EURE-00 RSR-01 INRE-00 /134 W

----- 094498

P 031617 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0212

UNCLAS LONDON 03875

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: MINERS OPPOSE STRIKE; LONDON DOCKS DOWN

REF: LONDON'S 3812

1. SUMMARY: A SIGNIFICANT PLUS FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S COUNTER-INFLATION PROGRAM WAS SEEN APRIL 3 WHEN THE MINERS VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY AGAINST STRIKE ACTION OVER THE NATIONAL COAL BOARD'S PHASE TWO PAY OFFER. HOWEVER, CLOUDS STILL HUNG OVER THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SCENE AS LONDON DOCKS WERE CLOSED FOR THE SECOND DAY IN A DISPUTE RELATED TO A PHASE TWO WAGE OFFER.
END SUMMARY.

2. BRITAIN'S COAL MINERS, REPRESENTING ONE OF THE MOST MILITANT SECTORS OF BRITISH LABOR AND THE ONE WHICH EFFECTIVELY DEMOLISHED THE GOVERNMENT'S WAGE NORMS IN THE EIGHT- WEEK STRIKE LAST YEAR, HAVE DECIDED AGAINST A STRIKE CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PHASE TWO WAGE LIMITS. OF THE VOTES CAST, 143,006 OR 63.38 PERCENT WERE AGAINST INDUSTRIAL ACTION AND 82,631 OR 36.62 FAVORED SUCH A COURSE. A TOTAL OF 290,000 PAPERS WERE DISTRIBUTED IN THE SECRET BALLOT AND 225,637 RECEIVED. AFTER ANNOUNCING THE RESULT, JOE GORMLEY,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 03875 031626 Z

NUM (MINERS UNION) PRESIDENT, SAID THAT THE MINERS HAD DECIDED THAT THEY HAD TO ACCEPT THE LATEST OFFER OF THE COAL BOARD WHICH ADHERES STRICTLY TO THE PHASE TWO PAY LIMITS. GORMLEY SAID HE WAS "TERRIBLY SURPRISED" BY THE SIZE OF THE MAJORITY AGAINST STRIKE ACTION, ADDING "OUR MEMBERS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN INDUSTRIAL ACTION THIS YEAR". UNDER NUM RULES A 55 PERCENT VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR AN OFFICIAL NATIONAL STRIKE.

3. THE MINERS' ACTION WILL NO DOUBT BE VIEWED BY GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND OTHERS AS A THUMPING VICTORY FOR THE HARD-LINE STANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST BREACHES OF ITS PAY GUIDELINES BY STRIKING UNION MEN. COMING ON THE HEELS OF SIMILAR ACTION BY THE GAS WORKERS AND INCREASING SIGNS THAT TEACHERS, CIVIL SERVANTS AND THE HOSPITAL WORKERS MAY FOLLOW SUIT, THE PROSPECTS FOR LABOR PEACE SEEM GREATLY ENHANCED.

4. WHEN ASKED BY NEWSMEN IF THE MINERS' DECISION MEANT THAT THEY WOULD NOT JOIN THE MAY DAY PROTEST STRIKES, GORMLEY REPLIED, "IT WOULD SEEM FROM THE VOTE TODAY THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF CALLING THE MINERS OUT ON MAY 1 WILL NOT BE ON". A FINAL DECISION ON THIS, HOWEVER, REMAINS FOR THE NUM EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS NEXT MEETING.

5. COUNTERING THIS GOOD NEWS, HOWEVER, FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWPOINT, IS THE SHUT-DOWN OF THE WHOLE OF LONDON'S ENCLOSED DOCKS, INCLUDING THE CONTAINER PORT AT TILBURY. THE DISPUTE IS OVER GOVERNMENT PAY POLICY. ALTHOUGH THE DOCKERS HAVE ACCEPTED A PAY AWARD IN LINE WITH PHASE TWO, IN REPRISAL THEY VOTED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE FLEXIBLE MANNING AGREEMENT OF TWO YEARS AGO. WHEN THE DOCKERS REFUSED TO ACCEPT ASSIGNMENTS GIVEN THEM UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, DOCK EMPLOYERS BEGAN SENDING THEM HOME. AFTER THIS, THE MEN VOTED TO STRIKE. THE DOCK EMPLOYERS HAVE OFFERED TO ENTER TALKS BUT THE DOCKS ARE STILL LIKELY TO BE DOWN FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK, AND THERE ARE HINTS OF POSSIBLE SYMPATHY STRIKES AT LIVERPOOL AND OTHER PORTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 03875 031626 Z

ANNENBERG

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON03875
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730431/aaaahkng.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 LONDON S 3812
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971118
Subject: MINERS OPPOSE STRIKE; LONDON DOCKS DOWN
TAGS: ELAB, UK
To: EUR
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005